

Serial No. NEW

ALB.022

Preliminary Amendment dated December 23, 2005

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 23-44 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-22 have been canceled.

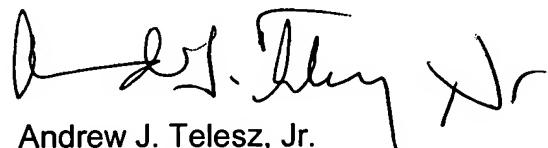
Favorable consideration and early allowance of the present application are earnestly solicited.

In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, please contact Andrew J. Telesz, Jr. (Reg. No. 33,581) at (571) 283-0720 in the Washington, D.C. area, to discuss these matters.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment for any additional fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0238.

Respectfully submitted,

VOLENTINE FRANCOS & WHITT, P.L.L.C.



Andrew J. Telesz, Jr.
Reg. No. 33,581

11951 Freedom Drive, Suite 1260
Reston, VA 20190
Tel. No. (571) 283-0720
Fax No. (571) 283-0740